Tampico, Mexico

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Official-Informal
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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FBI/DTC

DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 [redacted] #645
ON 4-29-92 per SPD letter 2-21-84

Dear Wes:

The missing Lee Harvey Oswald airgram referred to in your letter of April 14 is Tampico's A-43, which I drafted on March 16. It ought to have reached you before April 14.

I had originally debated with myself whether to send anything at all, considering my "informant" did not seem to offer anything new. However, in view of the admittedly "electrifying quality" of the subject, I finally decided to record the matter.

Because of your letter, I invited my friend to lunch today. He went over the ground in somewhat more detail, as set forth below, but he did not claim he was making world-shaking revelations, and I do not believe he was.

He said he and a group of follow students met Oswald one afternoon (he does not recall the date) when they came out of the Cineclub, which I understood to be at the Escuela de Filosofía (I am not familiar with the University of Mexico). He described Oswald as "raro" and "introvertido", a person who obviously had complexes and problems.

Oswald was with the group during the remainder of the afternoon and evening and all the following day. They paid for his meals during this time. (It was of interest to me my informant said that, in addition to recognizing Oswald's photograph following the assassination of President Kennedy, he easily recalled Oswald's name because both "Harvey" and "Oswald" connoted rabbit to him, something I had not thought of.

Oswald evidently had gone to the university to look for pro-Castro students who might help him persuade the Cuban Embassy to grant him a visa. He spoke little Spanish, but indicated he was from California, as well as that he had been a member of a pro-Castro group in New Orleans (no

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mention of Texas). He also gave them to understand police agencies in the United States had harrassed him ("lo hostilizaban"). He showed an interest in painting and paintings.

My friend reports the Cuban Embassy turned Oswald down from the outset, apparently in the first place because they had no "previous" on him and in the second place because they suspected he was a U.S. agent.

Oswald was deeply upset over being rejected by the Cubans. My informant used the word "lloraba", but I inferred not literally. The group saw no more of Oswald after the second day.

I am not trying to be coy about my "informant's" name. I should nevertheless like to protect him to the extent possible. He claims not to have discussed his acquaintance with Oswald with anyone except me. I take this with a grain of salt, but he does seem genuinely fearful of losing his job if he is tied publicly to this matter.

He also seems fearful of trouble with his former pro-Castro student friends if they get the impression he "ratter" on anyone. I gather they are not altogether "former", considering he says some of them still visit him here from time to time.

Incidentally, he claims to have visited Cuba, to be well acquainted with Raúl Roa and, to a lesser degree, with Castro. He claims further to have been friendly with on María Teresa Proenza, who I understood him to say defected from the Cuban Embassy in Mexico City and may now be in Miami. FIC

One item he "revealed" during our first evening particularly intrigued me. (He seemed subsequently, and probably with justification, especially fearful of the unpleasant consequences which might derive from any publicity regarding it). He asserted he was the student who personally climbed the Miguel Alemán Statue on the UAM campus with the dynamite—I believe he said dynamite—when it was mutilated some years ago.

I am aware my friend my have fabricated everything he told me. My personal evaluation is that he has been truthful.

Sincerely,

Benjamin J. Muyle
American Consul

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